



# PRESS RELEASE

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**ATTORNEY GENERAL PRESENTS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD  
TO TAMPA ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

Today Attorney General John Ashcroft presented the Attorney General's Award for Furthering the Interest of United States National Security to Assistant United States Attorney Walter E. "Terry" Furr. Also receiving the award is Assistant United States Attorney Laura A. Ingersoll who works in the United States Attorney's Office in the District of Columbia. The pair is being recognized for the outstanding cooperative effort in investigating and prosecuting the highly publicized espionage case of George Trofimoff.

During the Cold War Trofimoff was a senior civilian employee of U.S. Army Intelligence in West Germany, and a U.S. Army Reserve Colonel. During his trial evidence was produced that showed Trofimoff had access to classified U.S. national defense documents and secretly photographed approximately 50,000 pages which he then sold to the Soviet intelligence service - the KGB.

For the first time ever, former KGB officers testified in a U.S. espionage case and several high ranking U.S. military officers gave testimony on the potential harm done to national security by Trofimoff's actions. After being convicted by a jury in June of 2001 Trofimoff was sentenced to life in prison.

U.S. Attorney Paul I. Perez applauded Furr and Ingersoll for their tenacity and stated, "This was a very complex and intense case that required a great deal of dedication to detail. These two attorneys did a masterful job of weaving together an airtight case that led to the arrest and conviction of a man who betrayed the country he swore to serve."